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June 3rd.

Vice-President BRIDGES in the Chair.

A letter was read from Edward Wilson, Esq., dated Lydstip House, Pembrokeshire, Wales, 15th April, 1851, giving information of a case containing books and specimens of Natural History, which he had forwarded for the Academy.

Also a letter from the President of the National Society of Agriculture, &c., of Lyons, dated 23rd December, 1850, accompanying the donation by that Society, of its Annals for 1849, and '50.

Mr. Cassin read a communication from Col. Geo. A. McCall, U. S. A., entitled "Some account of Birds found in Western Texas and New Mexico, with descriptions of new species;" which was intended for publication in the Proceedings, and referred to the following committee: Mr. Cassin, Dr. Watson and Mr. E. Harris.

Dr. J. K. Mitchell exhibited a specimen of a fungus growing upon a piece of decayed white-oak wood, which when recent is so luminous as to attract insects to it at night.

Dr. Leidy remarked, that it had occurred to him whilst examining the mole cricket, referred to at the meeting of May 20th, that if the fragments of the insect were placed under favorable conditions, the fungoid matter in the interior of the insect might develope itself into an external form of fungus. He accordingly placed them in a small glass case, with some moist sphagnum, and allowed them to remain until the present time. Dr. L. exhibited the glass case with the fragments, each having sprouting out of it one, two, or three, elongated, conical stripes of a cream color, from 3 lines to 1 inch long, and from ½ a line to 1½ lines in diameter. Dr. Leidy continued, in examining insects for entophyta and entozoa, he had found the hemiptera remarkably free from them, which he considers an important fact. Those insects which eat large quantities of vegetable solid food, especially such as eat decaying substances, are very much infected with parasites. The spontaneous generation of entophyta and entozoa finds but few advocates at the present day. Late researches lead us to suspect that many, if not all, entozoa, pass part of their life out of the animals in which they are known as parasites, under forms different from those when within the animals.

The entrance of the parasites into other animals is effected probably in two ways: with the food of the latter, or by boring from the exterior. The former method is probably the most frequent in ærial animals; and both methods are frequent in aquatic animals, because, in the latter case, the water affords a good vehicle for the approach of the parasites to any part of the body of the animals to be infected.

As hemipterous insects suck the juices only of plants or animals, through a delicate proboscis, they are placed under circumstances the most favorable of all animals to avoid taking in with their food, ova, spores, or developed animals and plants of a parasitic character; whilst insects like passalus, crickets, etc., or julus amongst myriapoda, from their eating decaying substances, swallowing large morsels of such food, are very apt to take in parasites.

Frequently I have detected adhering to insects and annelida, while living, cryptogamic sporules, which under favorable circumstances, before or after the death of the animal, undergo development into the perfect plant. House-flies, and especially earth worms, are very liable to the growth of Achlya upon them, and sometimes I have even detected the growth of the latter upon the surface of earth worms still living.

Mr. Lea stated that during his recent visit to Reading, Penn., he had discovered there a new locality for Zircon, a specimen of which he exhibited, and also a specimen from another unrecorded locality, the Yellow Springs.

Dr. Burnett, of Boston, made a communication on the subject of his recent microscopic examination of the Cicada septendecim, especially of the alimentary canal and sexual organs, and of the apparatus in the male for producing sound.

The Librarian announced the donation to the Academy of a portrait of its late President, Dr. Samuel George Morton, which had been executed under the direction of a committee consisting of Dr. Zantzinger, Mr. J. Cooke, and Mr. J. Lambert, appointed at an informal meeting of the Society, held for that purpose in December, 1850. The portrait was painted by Mr. Paul Weber, of Philadelphia County, and is a very faithful likeness. An earlier presentation of the portrait had been unavoidably prevented. The following members are the donors: William Hembel, George W. Carpenter, William S. Vaux, J. H. B. McClellan, George B. Wood, William S. Zantzinger, John Cooke, William Parker Foulke, Alexander Biddle, E. J. Lewis, Thomas Fisher, Thomas B. Wilson, John S. Phillips, Robert Pearsall, Robert Bridges, A. L. Elwyn, Samuel Ashmead, and J. Price Wetherill.

June 10th.

Vice-President Bridges in the Chair.

Letters were read:—

From the Librarian of the British Museum, dated 19th May, 1851, acknowledging the receipt of late Nos. of the Proceedings.

From the Librarian of the New York State Library, dated Albany, June 3d, 1851, acknowledging the receipt of last No. of the Proceedings.

From Mr. John Hooper, dated New York, June 5th, 1851, accompanying an additional collection of American Algæ, and also referring to a species of Petrel supposed to be new, from the Florida coast; abdomen white, toes fastigiate, web extending nearly to the claws, claws very short and even in length, size much larger than the stormy Petrel.

From Edward Wilson, Esq., dated Lydstip House, Wales, May 14th, 1851, enclosing bill of lading and invoice of a case of books intended for the Academy.

Dr. Horner exhibited a portion of skin affected with the disease called Nigrities, taken from the cheek of a white man; a part originally white

ERRATA IN VOL. V.

Page 14, line 16 from bottom, for *Zeuker* read *Zenker*.
“ 22, “ 10 “ top, for *February* read *August*.
“ 55, “ 23, “ bottom, for *Plumus* read *Plumos*.
“ 117, “ 16 “ “ for *Vol.* 5 read *Vol.* 4.
“ 154, “ 12 “ top, for *necessarily* read *unnecessarily*.
“ 157, “ 4 “ bottom, for *Heidinger* read *Haidinger*.
“ 169, “ 10 “ top, for *Dikaj* read *Dijak*.
“ 209, “ 7 “ “ for *isoseoles* read *isosceles*.
“ 209, “ 10 “ “ for *joints* read *points*.
“ 210, “ 5 “ bottom, for *papulus* read *Passalus*.
“ 210, “ 4 “ “ for *gulus* read *Julus*.
“ 212, “ 21 “ “ for 8 read 13, and for 34 read 54.
“ 224, “ 10 and 11 from bottom, for *Aspidagaster* read *Aspidogaster*.
“ 227, “ 2 from bottom, insert John H. Brinton.
“ 256, “ 5 “ “ for *Sowerly* read *Sowerby*.
“ 259, “ 13 “ “ for *Statisque* read *Statistique*.
“ 275, “ 10 “ top, for *Longstreth* read *Langstroth*.
“ 276, “ 19 “ “ for *robustum* read *priscum*.
“ 276, “ 23 “ “ for *i.* $\frac{1}{4}$ read *i.* $\frac{3}{4}$.
“ 276, “ 2 “ bottom, before “by” insert “read.”
“ 295, “ 8 “ top, for *were* read *are*.
“ 296, “ 5 “ “ for *Silliquaria* read *Sigillaria*.
“ 297, “ 13 “ “ for *Ireland* read *Iceland*.
“ 297, bottom line, for *Arctos* read *maritimus*.
“ 301, line 21 from bottom, for *cinqe* read *cinque*.
“ 345, top line, for *puncticollis* read *poricollis*.
“ 357, line 21 from top, for *Coaco* read *Cocoa*.
“ 357, “ 11 “ bottom, for *Borneo* read *Africa*.
“ 357, bottom line, for *Fiuns* read *Finns*.